



Seminar

HENRIKA TANDEFELT

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*Emotions, Strategies and Texts:
Marriage and the Upper Class Stratum in the
19th Century Grand Duchy of Finland*

Tuesday, 28 April, 11:15 a.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
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S W E D I S H
C O L L E G I U M
for ADVANCED STUDY

ABOUT HENRIKA TANDEFELT

Henrika Tandefelt received her Ph.D. in History from the University of Helsinki in 2007. She has taught at the University of Helsinki and worked on various research and publishing projects at the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, most recently (2014) as a metadata expert in the database project 'Albert Edelfelts brev' [Albert Edelfelt's Letters Online]. Her fields of research include eighteenth-century political culture, imagery and ceremonies, the cultural history of manors and country houses and the political and cultural history of elites and nobility.

Tandefelt's publications include the monographs (in Swedish) *Konsten att härska: Gustaf III inför sina undersåtar* (The Art of Ruling: Gustav III and His Subjects, 2008) and *Borgå 1809: Ceremoni och fest* (Borgå 1809: Ceremony and Festivity, 2009), also translated into Finnish. Tandefelt has edited many anthologies, including *Riksdag, kaffehus och predikstol: Frihetstidens politiska kultur 1766–1772* (Political Culture in Sweden's Age of Liberty, 1766–1772, with Marie-Christine Skuncke, 2003) and *Sarvlax: Herrgårdshistoria under 600 år* (Sarvlax: The History of a Country House, 2010). She has, together with Maria Vainio-Kurtakko, edited a special issue of *Historisk Tidskrift för Finland* (Historical Journal of Finland, 2/2013), bringing together scholars from Sweden and Finland researching the history of country houses. Tandefelt is the Finnish review editor of *Sjuttonhundratals: Nordic Yearbook for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, and a member of the board of *Historisk Tidskrift för Finland*.

Tandefelt's current research deals with different aspects of the ideals and material culture of the nobility in a changing nineteenth-century world, and elite marriage strategies and emotions in nineteenth-century Finland. During her stay at SCAS, Tandefelt will work on marriage norms, ideals and strategy in the Finnish family von Born, and Hanna Palme, née von Born.

ABSTRACT

Marriage is a traditional institution, between private and public, which is topical also in today's society. It has been and is an institution that gives judicial and social legitimacy to a relationship. Who has the right to marry and acquire marital status is debated with passion, and marriage between partners of the same sex can create intense discussions. The importance of marriage as an institution, and a way of organising and manifesting the relationship between the spouses, is thus still keenly felt.

In my paper, I shall explore the many layers of meaning invested in marriage by interlocking groups of elite families in 19th-century Finland, especially during the latter part of the century. I shall look at the political and social strategies which may be observed, as well as consider the norms and ideals which are shown forth in private source material, especially through letters and autobiographical narrations. I will discuss the reasons for and the means by which a set of elite men and women married; how they talked and wrote about marriage, love and relations; and describe the praxis of courtship, eventual marriage, and of staying married or with regards to divorce and its social consequences.